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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend Conrad Braaten, Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of grace, God of glory and truth, grant us wisdom for the living of these days. Grant us discernment for the deliberations we make and courage for the decisions we face.

May the guidance of Your Spirit in this House serve to lead us as a Nation in paths of righteousness for Your Name's sake. Bring to our minds an awareness of Your benevolence upon all people, and may our hearts bear the imprint of Your compassion for the least among us.

You have given to us as individuals and as a body the vocation of being a trustee of Your creation and a steward of the common good.

May we be given a vision for our work together as public servants that will bless the well-being of our people, nurture the establishment of justice, and nourish the seeds of peacemaking in our world.

This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WONDERFUL NEWS FROM DETROIT

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, during the past several years, the domestic auto industry has undergone an incredibly painful economic transition. Quite frankly, this industry was on its knees, and many people didn't think that either General Motors or Chrysler would survive. These naysayers said it would be best if they were just left to, in the case of General Motors, go into a chaotic bankruptcy, and in the case of Chrysler, certainly a complete liquidation.

For my great State of Michigan, my beautiful State of Michigan, which has suffered the worst economic depression certainly in my lifetime, if that would have happened, as bad as it has been for us, what would have happened if those companies would have gone bankrupt and liquidated would have been unimaginable—the loss of tens of thousands of more jobs either directly or indirectly through the supply chain and all the businesses that rely on the spinoff from the domestic auto industry.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, Chrysler Company at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant—also known as SHAP, which is in my district—will be announcing that they will be paying back the Federal Government loans in their entirety 4 years ahead of schedule. This is the same plant, Mr. Speaker, that just recently put on a third shift, actually saving in that plant well over 2,000 jobs.

I am very proud of everyone who has supported the domestic auto industry,

and certainly it is proof that the best automobiles in the entire world are, indeed, imported from Detroit.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE RECENT TORNADO

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to give thanks to all who stepped up to help when St. Louis was struck by the Good Friday tornado. But now it's time to help our fellow Missourians in Joplin who last night suffered Missouri's most deadly tornado in 50 years, up to 1 mile wide and 6 miles long, devastating homes, businesses, schools, and the local hospital.

I have reached out to our colleague, BILLY LONG, who represents southwest Missouri. We offer our heartfelt prayers and condolences to the families of at least 89 dead, many more injured, and all whose way of life has literally been demolished.

As a member of the congressional subcommittee with oversight responsibility for FEMA, I commend the prompt action of our first responders as they conduct urgent search and rescue operations. The American Red Cross has set up an emergency shelter. For those who would like to help, you can visit www.redcross.org.

In the spirit of thanks for the assistance given to St. Louis in our time of need, it is time to provide a helping hand to our many neighbors who urgently require our help in southwest Missouri.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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